

JENNIFER M. MCDOWELL

USPTO Pro Bono Program Coordinator

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Jennifer McDowell is the USPTO's Pro Bono Coordinator, a position created pursuant to President Obama's February 2014 Executive Action, which called on the USPTO to facilitate the establishment and expansion of patent pro bono programs throughout the United States. She is dedicated to making sure that all inventors have access to the patent system, including those who are financially under-resourced. In this capacity, she is leading the Pro Bono team to guarantee pro bono coverage in all 50 states and to manage all aspects of the agency's implementation of Section 32 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA). Her position is located within the Office of the Under Secretary and Director.

Prior to leading the Pro Bono program, Ms. McDowell was an Associate Counsel for the Office of the General Counsel and was responsible for the legal clearance of patent and trademark rules for the agency. Her work includes dozens of rules promulgated under the AIA, the Patent Law Treaty and the Hague Agreement. In addition, Ms. McDowell has litigated and provided legal advice to USPTO managers on a wide variety of employment law matters for over a decade.

Ms. McDowell previously served as Special Project Manager in the Office of the Under Secretary and Director during the transition to the Obama administration.

Ms. McDowell received her undergraduate degree, cum laude, in Finance from the University of Alabama and graduated, magna cum laude, from Catholic University, Columbus School of Law.